

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
Executive Council

STATE HOUSE ROOM 207

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Andru Volinsky,
Executive Councilor for District Two
Meeting Report
Executive Council Meeting of January 18, 2017

Today was my first substantive Executive Council meeting. I have much to learn and always appreciate your input. Reach me at Andru.Volinsky@nh.gov.

Council Agenda Items of Note

The Council Agenda consisted of 70 items, including contracts, amendments and contract renewals for programs such as Court Appointed Special Advocates of NH (CASA), National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), Riverbend in Concord's Campaign to Change Direction on Mental Illness, and for a special workforce training for the Women's Prison to provide job training translating books to Braille. Most items passed without much discussion. The Councilors were largely in agreement with respect to approving agenda items.

Attached to this Report, please find descriptions of agenda items relevant to Council District Two sorted by whether the item is one of a statewide scope or concerns the Monadnock Region, the Central Region of District Two which is centered around Merrimack County or the Strafford County portion of District Two.

Nominations

The big news at the start of our meeting was the Governor's nomination of his former political opponent, Frank Edelblut, to become the Commissioner of Education. A confirmation hearing will be scheduled in February for this appointment. The responsibilities of a commissioner may be found at RSA 21-N:4.¹ Mr. Edelblut's nomination was lauded by American's for Prosperity-NH. If you wish to voice an opinion about Mr. Edelblut's nomination, please send it to all five Executive Councilors at gcweb@nh.gov.

Also nominated were Amanda Merrill of Durham to the LCHIP board, John Degnan of New London to continue as State Fire Marshal, Suzanne Foster of Newfields to the University System

¹ You may review all New Hampshire statutes on line at <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/nhtoc.htm>.

Board of Trustees, and Nancy Rollins of New London to the State Rehabilitation Council. Please feel free to provide me with input regarding these appointments at Andru.Volinsky@nh.gov.

Outgoing Commissioner of Education, Virginia Barry was commended for her service to our state by District One Councilor, Joseph Kenney. I fully supported the commendation.

Volunteer for State Boards and Commissions

New Hampshire runs well because of the commitment of its volunteers who join our state commissions and boards. These boards and commissions have broad responsibilities as advisors and governing bodies. They include professional and technical supervisory boards organized under the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification as well as such diverse boards and commissions as the Agricultural Advisory Council and the State Conservation Commission. The Governor, with the assistance of the Council Members, is developing a portal to facilitate the process of volunteering. While this electronic application process is under development, if you are interested in an appointment, please send your resume and statement of interest to me via email at: Andru.Volinsky@nh.gov. A list of the state volunteer positions may be found in the New Hampshire Red Book.²

Spotlight

I intend to highlight one or two agenda items that may be of interest to my constituents in a Spotlight section of my reports.

A. Department of Corrections Supervises Aging Population

The New Hampshire Department of Corrections has a shortage of nurses (as well as a shortage of other correctional staff). The Department sought approval to offer hiring bonuses to attract qualified nurses to state service. The Council approved the request.

In discussing this request, we learned that New Hampshire has an aging prison population that mirrors the non-prison population, requiring the State to offer services such as hospice and elderly medical care in our prisons. The Department also noted that it has developed an innovative peer-to-peer hospice program that trains and allows incarcerated persons to assist in the hospice process in prison.

B. \$15 an Hour

At my request, the Department of Administrative Services began reporting the lowest rates of compensation paid by state vendors to their employees on state projects. On this Council agenda, we had contract items with three contractors that provide construction and labor services.

- Alvin Coleman and Son, Inc of Conway, which was approved to complete a project at the Glenclyff Home for the Elderly, pays its employees as little as \$9.75/hour.
- Hascall and Hall, Inc. of Portland, which was retained to work on the Monadnock Mill in Claremont, pays its lowest paid workers \$12/hour.
- Finally, DL King and Associates, Inc. of Nashua, which was retained to provide work at the State House in Concord, pays its lowest paid employees \$16/hour.

Councilor Pappas asked that the Department in the future also provide information about the benefits vendors provide to their employees.

² The Red Book may be found on line at: <http://sos.nh.gov/GC2.aspx> Look to the upper left of the page.

Next Meeting

Our next Executive Council meeting will occur at the State House on February 1, 2017, beginning at 10 a.m. The agenda for the meeting will be posted by the Secretary of State on the Executive Council web page late on the preceding Friday afternoon, January 27th. <http://sos.nh.gov/GC2.aspx>

I am responsible for organizing the Executive Council's informal breakfast, which may be viewed by the public. It will be held on February 1, 2017, beginning at 8 a.m. at the Department of Revenue Administration ("DRA") in Concord.

NH STATEWIDE:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

[#11](#) Authorized the Office of Human Services, Division for Children, Youth and Families to exercise a renewal option to an existing **sole source** agreement with Court Appointed Special Advocates of NH Inc., Manchester, NH (originally approved by G&C on 6-24-15, item #40), for the continuation of a statewide training program and education opportunities for court appointed special advocates and guardian ad litem, by increasing the price by \$56,744.60 from \$69,141.88 to \$125,886.48 and by extending the completion date from June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2019. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

NEW HAMPSHIRE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

[#24](#) Authorized to accept and expend \$360,051 out of a total of \$1,099,951 Authorized in federal funds from the US Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration, for the purpose of implementing a new on-line, front-end interface system to establish common registration and case management services across the Dislocated Worker, Employment Service and Unemployment Insurance programs. (2) Further Authorized to establish one full-time temporary, class 059 position for the purpose of providing project management and oversight. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2017. **100% Federal Funds. Contingent upon Fiscal Committee approval on January 13, 2017. Unanimous Vote**

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

[#25](#) Authorized to implement 15% base hourly wage enhancement to nursing staff currently paid under the Institutional Nurse pay scale for recruitment and retention purposes. This request is projected to increase funding by \$239,584.61 for the balance of five months for SFY 17. Effective upon G&C approval through January 17, 2019, or a period of 24 months from date of such approval, whichever is later. **100% General Funds. Unanimous Vote**

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[#46](#) Authorized to enter into a contract with the Educational Testing Service, Princeton, NJ, to provide high school equivalency testing and technical support services to NH residents, in an amount not to exceed \$375,000. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2020, with the option to renew for up to 2 years. **100% General Funds. Unanimous Vote**

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

[#56](#) Authorized the Division of State Police to enter into a contract amendment with NIIT Technologies Inc., Atlanta, GA (originally approved by G&C on 2-28-14, item #60), for the purpose of continuing one temporary consultant position to assist during the Virtual Private

Network rollout in preparing local law enforcement for their future integration into the Justice-One Network Environment project, in the amount of \$146,000, increasing the amount from \$511,460 to \$657,460. Effective upon G&C approval through September 30, 2018. **100% Agency Income. Unanimous Vote**

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[#58](#) Authorized to enter into subgrants with the agencies as detailed in letter dated December 20, 2016, totaling \$152,340 from the Victims Fund for the purpose of providing services to crime victims in NH. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2017. **100% Agency Income. Unanimous Vote**

[#60](#) Authorized to enter into a subgrant with the NH Coalition Against and Domestic and Sexual Violence in the amount of \$340,202 from the US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Sexual Assault Support Program, for the purpose of providing services for victims of sexual assault in NH. Effective upon G&C approval through July 31, 2018. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

REGION 1 MONADNOCK

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

4 #A. Authorized to appoint Alexander W. Scott as an Attorney at a salary level of \$77,000. Effective upon G&C approval or February 6, 2017, whichever is later.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[#42](#) Authorized the Division of Educational Improvement to enter into a cooperative project agreement with Keene State College, to support the Title IIA State Agency for Higher Education initiative for Improving Teaching Quality by providing high quality, sustained professional development opportunities to teachers and educational leaders, in an amount not to exceed \$182,543.68. Effective upon G&C approval through September 30, 2017. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

REGION 2 CENTRAL:

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

5 [#A.](#) Authorized to amend a sub grant made available through the NH Department of Justice (originally approved by G&C on 9-21-16, item #43), by reallocating funds with no increase in funding, in support of the NH Department of Corrections Canine Unit as part of the Department's effort in combating the substance abuse problem that results from the introduction of drugs in the NH Department of Corrections facilities. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2017. **100% Agency Income.**

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

[#8](#) Authorized the Office of Human Services, Division for Children, Youth and Families to amend an existing agreement with Sarah Fox, Sanbornton, NH (originally approved by G&C on 11-4-15, item #12), for the provision of educational consultation and advocacy services, by increasing the price by \$312,000 from \$312,000 to \$624,000, and by extending the completion date from June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2019. **100% Other Funds. Unanimous Vote**

[#16](#) Authorized the Division of Behavioral Health, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services, to amend an existing **sole source** agreement with the Prevention Certification Board of NH, Bow, NH, for the provision of administering an internationally recognized certification procedure for alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention practitioners in NH, by increasing the price by \$20,000 from \$20,000 to \$40,000, and by extending the completion date from June 30, 2017 to June 30, 2019. **98% Federal, 2% General Funds. Unanimous Vote**

[#17A](#) Authorized the Division for Behavioral Health, Bureau of Mental Health Services to amend a **sole source** agreement with Riverbend Community Mental Health Inc., Concord, NH (originally approved by G&C on 6-29-16, item #24), for the provision of promoting and advertising the “Campaign to Change Direction”, by increasing the price by \$30,000 from \$468,353 to \$498,353. Effective upon G&C approval through the original end date of June 30, 2017. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

[#38](#) Authorized to execute a **sole source** amendment to a contract with Weston Solutions Inc., Concord, NH (originally approved by G&C on 8-26-15, item #60), for additional cleanup activities at several Superfund sites, by increasing the amount by \$1,475,000 from \$5,028,000 to \$6,503,000. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2019. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

[#54](#) Authorized the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to enter into a grant agreement with the Town of Sanbornton for the purchase of an electronic emergency message board, an emergency management trailer, and traffic control equipment for a total amount of \$30,741. Effective upon G&C approval through September 30, 2017. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[#57](#) Authorized to enter into a sub-grant with the Franklin Police Department, in the amount of \$60,000 from the Federal Fiscal Year 2015 Violence Against Women Formula Grant, for the purpose of providing services for women in NH who are victims of violent crimes. (2) Further Authorized to enter into sub-grants with the Coos County Attorney’s Office, in the amount of \$14,582.58; and the Portsmouth Police Department, in the amount of \$60,000, totaling \$74,582.58 from the Federal Fiscal Year 2016 Violence Against Women Formula Grant, for the purpose of providing services for women in NH who are victims of violent crimes. Effective upon G&C approval through December 31, 2018. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

[#59](#) Authorized to enter into a subgrant in the amount of \$25,000 with the Merrimack County Department of Corrections, utilizing funds from the US Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance Byrne Justice Assistance Grant in order to purchase, train and maintain a canine for the purposes of seeking out contraband in and around county jail property. Effective upon G&C approval through September 30, 2017. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

[#66](#) Authorized the Division of Public Works Design and Construction to enter into a contract with D.L. King & Associates Inc., Nashua, NH, for the NH State House Improvements – Exterior Painting, Concord, NH, for a total price not to exceed \$198,500. (2) Further Authorized a contingency in the amount of \$20,000 for unanticipated structural expenses, bringing the total to \$218,500. (3) Further Authorized the amount of \$15,700 for payment to the Department of Administrative Services, Division of Public Works Design and Construction, Capital Clerk for oversight and engineering services provided, bringing the total to \$234,200. Effective upon G&C approval through September 28, 2018. **100% Capital – General Funds. Unanimous Vote**

[#68](#) Authorized the Division of Public Works Design and Construction to enter into a contract with D.L. King & Associates Inc., Nashua, NH, for the Elevator Upgrades at the Philbrook Building in Concord, NH and Monadnock Mill in Claremont, NH, for a total price not to exceed \$324,000. Effective upon G&C approval through June 27, 2017. **82% Capital-General, 18% Operating-General Funds.** (2) Further Authorized a contingency in the amount of \$10,000 for unanticipated structural or mechanical expenses, bringing the total to \$334,000. **100% Capital-General Funds.** (3) Further Authorized the amount of \$13,500 for payment to the Department of Administrative Services, Division of Public Works Design and Construction,

Capital Clerk for oversight and engineering services provided, bringing the total to \$347,500. **86% Capital-General, 14% Transfer Funds. Unanimous Vote**

REGION 3 STRAFFORD:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

[#13](#) Authorized the Division of Public Health Services to enter into a **sole source** Cooperative Project Agreement with the University of NH Cooperative Extension, Durham, NH, for the provision of improving public health protection through coordinated efforts among three state agencies to assess, educate, train and oversee the implementation of the Food and Drug Administration Produce Safety Rule, in an amount not to exceed \$203,824. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2018. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

[#35](#) Authorized to award a grant to the University of NH, Sponsored Programs Administration, Durham, NH, in the amount of \$78,888 for the *Coastal Resilience: Building Capacity for Resilience of Human and Natural Communities in NH Due Systems Phase II* project to expand community-based dune restoration efforts and address existing coastal vulnerabilities in the towns of Hampton and Seabrook, NH. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2018. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

[#50](#) Authorized to enter into a **sole source** contractual agreement with the University of NH Wildcats Sports Properties LLC, Durham, NH, to coordinate a highway safety impaired driving related advertisement campaign during the 2016/2017 season, in the amount of \$63,000. Effective upon G&C approval through September 30, 2017. **100% Federal Funds. Unanimous Vote**

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